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John Berkeley, first Baron Berkeley of Stratton, younger brother of Sir William Berkeley, died in 1678, not long after his brother William. The first Lord Berkeley of Stratton was succeeded in the title by his three sons. Admiral Berkeley, the third lord, died in 1697. It is therefore likely that Admiral Byron was the grandson of the fourth Lord Berkeley of Stratton.

ALFRED J. MORRISON.

OLD USAGE OF WORDS.

By PHILIP ALEXANDER BRUCE.

I note Rev. Dr. Hord's reference on page 175 of the January QUARTERLY to the social status indicated by the word "Mister" when appearing in the records of the seventeenth century. I find it stated in A. M. Broadley's recently published "The Beautiful Lady Craven" (p. lxxiv.) that, in the eighteenth century, the affix of "Mister" to the name of a Harrow boy in the college lists always signified that the bearer was the son of a peer. This shows the dignity of this form of personal designation in the past of our English race. One remark further. The earliest use of the word "tote," so familiar to Virginians, that I have detected was in one of the documents sent to England by the Colonial Government about the time of the Plant-Cutters Rebellion in the seventeenth century. The origin of the word has been the subject of dispute. The assertion that it was brought from Africa by the first slaves would seem to be confirmed by Mrs. Mary Grant's recently issued book on the Guinea or Gold Coast of West Africa, from which most, if not all, of those slaves were imported, either directly or by way of the West Indies. In the authoress' conversations with the natives who could speak broken English, I find that she reports that they constantly employed the word "tote" exactly in our sense. Now I have never heard of that word being used anywhere except in the Southern States and West Africa. It certainly did not pass from our South to West Africa. The reference is justifiable, I think, that it passed from West Africa to our Southern States, primarily, of course, to Virginia.